



The

# BRITISH LUTHERAN

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Editor: The Rev. E. Geo. Pearce  
13 Twyford Avenue, London N.2

INFORMATION, ARTICLES, ANNOUNCEMENTS

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EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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1957-

## St. Martin of Tours

It was after Martin of Tours that John and Marga Luther christened their infant son "Martin" on N 11th, St. Martin's Day, 1483.

St. Martin was born in Hungary of heathen parents about the year 320. Against the wish of his parents he became a catechumen and, at twelve, determined to become a hermit. But his father had very different plans: a Roman soldier himself, he forced his son into the Army and compelled him to take the military oath. He was an able soldier and became a cavalry officer, but his heart was in a different world. One day, when his legion was stationed at Amiens he was passing through the gate when he saw a poor beggar, half-naked in the bitter cold. Martin had already given all his money away. Drawing his sword he cut his own coat in half and gave half to the shivering beggar. As he slept that night, Martin dreamed that he saw the Lord clad in the half-cloak and saying to the angels around Him: "Martin, though he is only a catechumen, hath clothed me".

He was immediately baptized and shortly afterwards was released from military duty. He placed himself under the famed Hilary of Poitiers, "the Athanasius of the West", who ordained him deacon. He had not been long in his new office when the thought began to trouble him that his parents were still heathen. After a long and dangerous journey over the Alps to Northern Italy, he reached his home and found both his parents alive. His father, displeased at his son's leaving the Army, could not be won over, but his mother and many others were converted.

In 375, Martin was with tremendous popular acclamation elected Bishop of Tours. The conversion of heathens he carried on with energy and imagination, destroying pagan temples, breaking down their images, pulling down their sacred trees. On the banks of the River Loire he founded the famous missionary-school of Marmontier from which went out the founders of Celtic or British Christianity. "Abraham's bosom receiving me" were his dying words at Caudebec in



# India

MILLION PEOPLE speaking 200 languages live in vast sub-continent of India. Of these, many are highly civilized when in England men still lived in caves. Before the birth of Jesus, Hinduism became deeply rooted, developing as it spread through the centuries. The basic Hindu problem is what can a man do to avoid the incessant and inevitable rebirth into some or other form of animal, insect or man.

Most of the people of India are farmers, and their farming implements are much the same as those used by their ancestors several thousands of years ago. Centuries of Western contact had, until very recently, but little influence upon their mode of life or thinking. Likewise, contact with Christianity has only slowly brings spectacular results. Bit by bit, with patient and persistent sowing of the Word and prayer, Christ's Kingdom grows. Last year, Christian India celebrated the 250th anniversary of the first Protestant missionaries in India. On July 9th 1706, Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg and Heinrich Pluetschau were sent by the Danish Lutheran King Frederick IV to evangelize the people of India.

Our own Church began in 1895 at Krishnagiri in the state of Madras. Today we have 385 regular preaching centres and a baptized membership of 26,000. A hundred Indian pastors who have been trained in Concordia Seminary at Nagercoil serve the people. There is a large Lutheran hospital with 120 beds. Some thirty missionaries are working in the field, two of them from the North-Tyndale, London.

May that missionaries may be allowed to continue their witness to Christ in India.



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WILLIAM F. ARNDT

"I cannot recall a single moment when I was troubled with feelings of ennui". This statement from one of his letters sums up the life of our Lutheran professor at Cambridge, William F. Arndt, Ph.D., D.D., teacher, scholar, editor, author, church official.

Born at Mayville, Wisconsin, U.S.A. on Dec. 1, 1888. Dr. Arndt attended Concordia College, St. Paul and Concordia College, Milwaukee, graduating from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in 1903. After serving as missionary in the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, he was called to parishes in St. Joseph, Mo. and Brooklyn, N.Y. After nine years of teaching at St. Paul's College, Concordia, Missouri, he was called to Concordia Seminary at St. Louis as Professor of New Testament. Having acquired the M.A. degree at the University of Chicago and the Ph.D. at Washington University, St. Louis, an honorary D.D. was conferred upon him by Concordia, Adelaide. Managing editor of the Concordia Theological Monthly from 1938-50, columnist of The Lutheran Witness, he has written many books, the latest, a commentary on Luke, being released a few weeks ago. Also recently published is his massive Greek Dictionary. He was a member of the Foreign Missions Board 1921-56 and of the Union Committee 1923-29 and 1935-50.

# HOW MUCH SHALL I PLEDGE?

question which every member of the Church asks  
elf is: "How much shall I pledge?", especially  
his time of the year when his congregation is  
ring its Every-Member-Visit. Many people do not  
how to decide what they should pledge. They  
no measuring stick by which to judge what the  
of their pledge should be. Is this a problem  
you?

Church encourages you to pledge and then to  
aside regularly a definite portion of your in-  
for Jesus and His work. But you ask: "W h a t  
ortion? H o w m u c h shall I pledge?"

## WHO CAN ANSWER THE QUESTION FOR ME?

Church cannot answer that question for you,  
though she cannot carry through her great ex-  
ion opportunities without your liberal support.

congregation cannot answer that question for  
even though it is your pledge and that of your  
ow-members that enable it to serve you.

pastor cannot answer that question for you,  
can your fellow-members.

", you ask, "can't someone tell me what I should  
ge? Doesn't God tell me just what I am to give?"

not even your Saviour tells you just how much  
should give for His work. He does tell you why:  
of love to Him and out of concern for others.  
He tells you how: as God has prospered you and  
1 cheerfulness and sacrifice. And once you have  
rned why and how, you will know what to give.

## CALVARY SUPPLIES THE ANSWER

with every other major decision of his life, the  
istian finds the answer to this question as he  
nds under the Cross. He looks at Calvary and  
s how much, how very much God gave to secure for  
forgiveness of sins, peace of mind, hope, love,



and faith. He looks at Calvary and sees what awful price the Saviour paid for his eternal benefit. And then the Christian looks at the world around him at the people who live in his street, who live in his country, at the millions in the world who are plodding along in their sins to an awful eternity and realizes that God has made it his awful responsibility to bring Christ to them.

### YOUR ANSWER UNDER THE CROSS

Having looked up into the face of Jesus and around into the unsmiling faces of lost men, you will have the answer to your question: "How much shall I pledge?" You cannot set a limit to love. Love sets its own price. What you give to the Lord God is the measure and the proof of your love to Him. You cannot give to Him beyond the measure of your love to Him. If you love Him and the people for whom He gave His life, you will not give Him what you can easily spare, what costs you nothing; you will be willing to make real sacrifices for Him whom you love.

In the end, you, and you alone, must determine what proportion of your possessions you will pledge to the Lord. In the Old Testament times, when the Church was still a child and under the Law, God set the proportion: every believer was required to give at least one-tenth of his income. But the Church is now grown up and under Grace. The love of the individual Christian for his Lord decides what share He will give to the Lord.

Have you ever sat down with yourself and asked "What percentage of my income am I now giving to Him who gave all that He had for me?" The Jews gave 10%. Should we not try to begin where they left off? A growing number of our Christians are now doing this. They are doing so, not because the Church or the pastor tells them they must, but because the love of Christ and their love for Christ constrains them.

Is this the answer to your question: "HOW MUCH SHALL I PLEDGE?"

*Looking  
into the  
Future?*



YOU  
CAN

INVEST  
IN YOUR CHURCH'S  
FUTURE

YOUR CHURCH WILL TELL YOU HOW ON  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD  
THE OPENING DATE OF OUR ELCE  
CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

**PETTS WOOD** Family New Year's Party arranged by the Youth Club on 10th January enjoyed by the forty-odd people present ..... feature of the homely evening was the Table Tennis Championship won by Chris Lamb from Vic Graf ..... SS which began with 3 now has 11 ... decision to begin 11 A.M. services on 3rd February meets with unanimous approval ..... plans to circularize neighbourhood with notice of this change ..... good prospects for the future.

**BROMLEY** Youth Club, hosts to thirty "Over-60s" before Christmas, sponsored successful SS Christmas parties for Juniors and Seniors on 2nd January .... discipline still a problem among SS children at present attending SS ... Dr. Arndt still rendering ready and warm-hearted service.

**RUISLIP** St. Andrews Youth Club all a-glow with plans for London Youth Rally on 10th February ... several new SS teachers join staff ... SS Teachers' Training Institute gives two courses "Child Psychology" and "Teaching Techniques" and meets for one evening every two weeks ..... Ladies Guild Christmas Party for SS children provided "a smashing time for the kiddies" .... 15 parcels of clothing gotten ready for shipment to Hungary ..... two high December church attendances: 124 and 147.

**KENTISH TOWN** Annual Every-Member-Visit to begin on 4th February will centre in the Church Extension Fund, carrying the need and appeal of this important project into every home ..... laymen will speak to the congregation after the service on CE on two successive Sundays: Mr. V. Graf on the pre-launching Sunday, 27th January; and Mr. E. C. Lutz on 3rd February ..... 1956 Annual Parish Report, now in preparation, shows advances all along the line ..... two children's instruction groups resuming on Saturday mornings ..... "high pressure" instruction for boarding school boys .. adult confirmation group almost doubled since its commencement.



## T O T H E T Y N E

**UNDERLAND** Joint Christmas programme of three Sunday Schools held in James William school with 300 in attendance .. SS enrolment 205 .. with 1956 church attendance 10% above that of 1955, t. Timothys is aiming for 100% increase in 1957 ... ladies' Guild new officers: Alma Coulton, President; Joan Beauchamp, Secretary-Treasurer .. Ladies' Guild raising funds to help pay fares of Sunderland's delegation to 1957 Synod ..... Ron Woolston as delegate r Albert Longley as alternate will lead delegation of 10 - 12 people ..... Church Council elections: . Precht, Chairman; R. Woolston, Secretary-Treas.; Frank Armstrong, Elder; Albert Longley, Trustee .... attractive new bulletin board with Luther Rose ..... consideration given to monthly services in Wakefield, 60 miles away, where the Dr. Kidd family live ..... New Year's Eve Candlelight Service well attended ... Hungarian clothing drive proceeding.

**BOREHAM WOOD** First five divine services in the temporary hall have averaged thirty with an encouraging number of local people ..... SS attendance mounting: 14, 22, 20, 28, 28 ... staff of four teachers .. present mild weather allowing good progress in construction: church-hall walls up to shoulder height, laying of bricks for parsonage soon to commence.

**TOTTENHAM** Confirmation of five young ladies on 16th December .. Nativity Pageant in churchyard stopped many passers-by ..... one night rain forced cancellation ..... "Toy Sunday" gifts given to sick children at Prince of Wales Hospital .. proceeds of Homerton SS children's carolling given for Christmas Eve service expenses ..... reception desk given to Holy Trinity by American serviceman.

**REDRUTH** Petrol rationing forces transfer of Bible class from Redruth to Goonhavern .. instruction classes conducted in homes .....renching rain could not spoil the children's service at Christmas.

# Roll up Your Sleeves in '57

"What can I do?" Maybe you've asked yourself that question when you've considered the growth of your church. We know there are many jobs involved in operating a church. Such jobs call for experienced, qualified men.

Does this disqualify the inexperienced? the novice? the "infant" church member? By no means!

In the past year, we have learned how children, in their own quiet humble way, have led other children and mature adults to the feet of Jesus. We have experienced manifold blessings from the "novices" who were willing to try their hand at soul-winning. And how it warmed our hearts to read the results!

The work of the church is basically that of the individual. "Each one reach one". It's the only way

But where to begin? With how many people do you come into contact each day? How many friends do you have who have no church home at all? And how many people call at your door in the course of a day? How many of your neighbours do you know? How many familiar "bus-riders" travel to and from work with you daily?

The number mounts, doesn't it? Just one of this multitude is your BEGINNING.

When to begin? Today!

How to begin? Hm. Is there a special event at your church to which your "BEGINNING" could be invited? Do you have an evening to spare in which to invite your "BEGINNING" for a chat over a cup of tea? Have you noticed your church's supply of tracts which are available for you to "invest" in your soul-winning project? Do you know how to pray?

Why begin? The answer to this question is the most important of all. Imagine your status if the Saviour had not taken a personal interest in you. That's all

"What can I do?" ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES. 1957 has only begun. You have a whole year in which to gain just one. Will you do it?

## WANTED: YOUNG MEN FOR THE MINISTRY

The Rev. Lowell Guebert of Canada was called by the Executive Council at its meeting on 8th January to serve our Church in Cardiff. He is the third pastor who has received this Call, the other two having declined it. In the meantime, the launching of our work in Wales waits and opportunities are wasted.

Why is it that we experience so much difficulty in training men for our new missions? The answer is simple. We have to rely upon our sister churches in other parts of the world to supply us with men trained for the ministry. And these churches themselves suffer from a shortage of pastors. The American church, for example, has 300 congregations without a pastor. So many and so great are the fields to which the Lord calls us that even though our ministry at St. Louis alone has more than a thousand ministry students enrolled, our churches and missions all over the world are still crying for pastors.

## SOLUTION FOR BRITAIN

The establishment of a Lutheran ministerial training programme at Cambridge under Dr. Arndt is now a fact. But it is only a half-answer. The other half of the solution depends upon the parents in our congregations. Every pastor and every parent ought to consider himself a recruiting sergeant for the Lord's army. Pastors should always be on the lookout for likely young men for the ministry. Parents should begin early to encourage their boys to think about full-time service to the Lord. Congregations should set up funds with which to help young men who could not otherwise afford the necessary training.

## A QUESTION TO OUR OLD CONGREGATIONS

Every parent in our old-established congregations ought to ask himself: how many pastors have served in the past? By comparison, how many sons and daughters have we given to full-time service in the church? If sister-congregations overseas had sent



out pastors in the same proportion, would we have men standing in our pulpits today?

### A NATIVE ENGLISH MINISTRY

For many and obvious reasons, a native ministry is one of the pressing needs of our Church. No longer do we need to send our young men abroad for years to get the necessary training; God has given us our facilities at Cambridge. Now it's up to churches, pastors, and parents to start recruiting. Let us not frustrate new missions by a lack of workers. Let us not see open doors gradually closing again because we haven't the manpower with which to enter. It's God's Kingdom that is concerned, and He only can build it. But it is the paradox of His working among us, that He can build it here and now only through you and your children.

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### DR. ARNDT HONOURED AT CAMBRIDGE PRESS RECEPTION

Professor William Arndt Ph.D. was honoured by the Syndics of Cambridge University Press at a reception given at Bentley House, Euston Road, London on Thursday, 19th of January. The occasion was the announcement of the publication of the Greek-English Lexicon of which Dr. Arndt is co-editor. One of the major projects of Cambridge University Press for 1956, this massive work will be released simultaneously by the Cambridge firm and by the University of Chicago Press on the 25th of January. Sandwiches and sherry were served to the authors present, whose interests ranged, as Dr. Arndt stated, from "grasshoppers to Greek lexicography".

Another reception took place on the date of publication at Cambridge when Press officials and invited guests from the University were present.

Tyndale House, where Dr. Arndt is at present lodging, marked the occasion on the evening of the 25th of January when the Professor lectured to an invited audience on the Dictionary.

## LONDON CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS HEAR C.E.F. PLANS

lders, treasurers, and stewardship committee men of all ELCE London congregations gathered at Luther-  
yndale Memorial Church Hall in northwest London to  
hear and discuss plans for the 3rd February opening  
of the Church Extension Fund. After introductory  
remarks by the Chairman, the Rev. W. P. Borgas, the  
principles upon which the new Fund will be based  
and operated were outlined by the Financial Secret-  
ry of the Fund, Mr. James Taylor. The twenty key-  
men present were shown samples of the literature  
and posters to be made available to all missions  
and congregations in advance of the church-wide  
opening date on 3rd February.

## COMMEMORATIVE STONE UNVEILING AT BOREHAM WOOD

A commemorative tablet will be unveiled in the west  
wall of the Lutheran Church Hall, now under con-  
struction at Boreham Wood, Herts., on February 17th  
by the Rev. E. Geo. Pearce, Chairman of the ELCE  
Executive Council. The ceremony will take place at  
3 P.M. Arrangements for the commemorative service  
and tea in the temporary hall afterwards are in the  
hands of the members and friends of Boreham Wood  
Lutheran Mission. It is hoped that the occasion will  
draw many from our London congregations and from  
the neighbourhood of Boreham Wood.

The public press has shown great interest in the  
Boreham Wood project, the first Lutheran buildings  
to be constructed in the County of Hertfordshire.  
Some months ago, a French news agency released on  
their world-wide service the story of "the first  
Lutheran church to be built in England in the last  
half-century". Inaccurate, but good publicity.

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## FEBRUARY DEADLINE FOR 1957 SYNOD RESOLUTIONS

ELCE congregations, missions and boards are remind-  
ed that Resolutions to be considered by the Third  
Annual Synod must be in the hands of the Secretary,  
Mr. E. F. R. Smith, by the end of February.

## SUNDERLAND AIMS AT 100% ATTENDANCE GAIN IN 1957

St. Timothy's Lutheran Congregation of Sunderland has big plans for the 1957th Year of God's Grace a 100% increase in adult church attendance. But it has a big God to rely upon for help to meet this goal. And it has had a big experience of God the past year: Sunday School attendance has not doubled but quadrupled. Advent I, 1955: 42 children. Advent I, 1956: 170 children.

"We've begun our promotion towards the 100% increase this year", Pastor Kromphardt writes, "and it is gratifying to hear the members report the contacts they are making with unchurched acquaintances".

Our God is big; our plans must be big. What goal has your congregation set for itself for 1957? The congregation that sets no goal never makes it.

## TWO INTERESTING MARRIAGES

On Saturday, the 12th of January, the Rev. Robert Wedegren, founder of our Sunderland mission and now pastor at Youngstown, Ohio, and Miss Lucille Cardaro were married in New Orleans, U.S.A.

One week later and on the other side of the world Mr. John Sims, who recently accepted our Call back to England, was united in marriage to Miss Rosemarie Ebelt in Adelaide, Australia.

## "YOUTH FOR THE KINGDOM" - LONDON RALLY THEME

Final plans for the February 10th Youth Rally at South Ruislip Community Centre were settled at the January 19th meeting of the London Lutheran Youth Council held at the home of the Rev. Arnold Rakowski. Beginning with a Divine Service at 11 A.M., the afternoon sessions will, by lecture and discussion, centre themselves in the Rally theme: "Youth for the Kingdom". The Council looks for a 100% support from London youth groups and their pastors.

It is hoped to arrange another Youth Rally in the Spring.



readers of the BRITISH LUTHERAN may like to know more about the beginnings and the progress of the Film Service.

Originally developed as an adjunct of the Lutheran

Hour's London operations, the Film Service began with one film and one projector. The response to the film "Reaching from Heaven" soon showed that there was a real market in Britain for the type of film our American sister-church produced. In Summer 1955, the Film Service was appointed official agent in the United Kingdom for "Concordia Films" and the popular TV series, "This is The Life", were made available to the Service for hire in Britain.

#### Lutheran Films in Ireland

Winter 1955, and a sub-agency was appointed in Belfast to handle the distribution in Northern Ireland and, recently, in Eire.

With the home market being steadily built up, 250 bookings handled every month, the overseas market is also being investigated. Holland and Denmark are already using our films, specially sub-titled in their respective languages. Fine opportunities to be exploited exist in the Lutheran countries to the North.

#### Martin Luther Filmstrip

The first filmstrip handled by Lutheran Film Service is the 72-frame "Martin Luther". Encouraging orders have been received from individuals, churches, and educational institutions from as far afield as South Africa, Australia, and Norway. Additional 35mm filmstrip titles will be added in due course.

Within five years, Lutheran Film Service has come to rank among the major three religious film distributors in the United Kingdom. Tomorrow? the future holds out every promise. Will you remember this important agency of your Church in your prayers?



The Story of  
LUTHERAN FILM  
SERVICE

# FORECAST FOR THE NEW YEAR

WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR YOU in the New Year of this atomic age? Prosperity or adversity? Joy or sorrow? Good health or illness?

No one can give you the answer to those questions. God alone knows what tomorrow will bring. However, if you are a child of God, you can be sure of some things in the future. As a Christian, your forecast for the New Year looks something like this:

HAPPINESS, in the knowledge of Jesus, your Saviour

CONTENTMENT, in spite of any trouble or adversity

PEACE, with God because your sins are forgiven.

COURAGE, to meet whatever problem faces you.

FELLOWSHIP, with your brothers in the faith.

PROTECTION, from every danger on the path of life

ETERNAL LIFE, if God should take you home tomorrow

God promises these blessings to Christians, regardless of world conditions. That these blessings may be yours for 1957 is the New Year's wish of the BRITISH LUTHERAN for all its readers.